



Fort Campbell Home Alone and Curfew Policy

This version will supercede all other versions

29 MAY 03

MEMORANDUM FOR Occupants of Government Quarters

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Instruction (MOI) – Ft. Campbell Home Alone and Curfew Policy.

1. Purpose: The purpose of this MOI is to:

- a. Establish a Ft. Campbell out-of-school “home alone” and “curfew” policy to address the ages and circumstances under which a child can be left at home alone without adult supervision during non-school hours.
- b. Emphasize the need for parents to arrange for the care and supervision of dependent children.
- c. Articulate the rationale for more stringent supervision requirements outlined in the MOI than required in AR 608-18, paragraph 3-5e, Indicators of Child Abuse.
- d. Provide parents with choices and information about a variety of supervision options for their elementary and middle school children.
- e. Define curfew and guidelines for high school youth.

2. Scope and Applicability: The guidance in this MOI specifically addresses:

- a. That all agencies and personnel cooperate to protect the safety of our children. Parents/guardians residing at Ft. Campbell will follow these instructions, which address basic standards, common sense, and good judgment must be used at all times.
- b. The day-to-day safety and protection of children and youth who are unsupervised or in self-care.
- c. Parental choices for provisions of safe supervision and age appropriate care options for elementary and middle school children during weekday parental duty hours.

3. Background: The need for an installation elementary and middle school child supervision policy during all non-school hours is outlined as follows:

- a. *Safeguarding children is a parental responsibility.* Parents generally fully accept this responsibility for children **nine (9)** years old and under. Parents tend to be less attentive in planning supervision for older elementary school children (*10-12 years-old*) and young teens (*13-17-years-old*) who are too old for child care, and, in many cases, too young to have an after-school job.
- b. Research indicates those unsupervised children are at risk for personal injury (*physical, emotional, and sexual*) to other persons and/or property, early sexual activity, substance abuse, and are more apt to engage in vandalism and petty crimes.
 1. Statistics from the National Center for Juvenile Justice shows that majority of juvenile violent crimes are committed between the hours of 1600 and 1800 hours.

2. Prevention of such outcomes through child supervision policies is far less costly in terms of lost duty time and installation resources than providing intervention services after the fact.
 - c. Commanders have a responsibility to reduce potential command liability through risk management. Enforcement of parental responsibilities and implementation of a child supervision policy helps commanders:
 1. Protect the safety of children and young teens by ensuring that they are not unsupervised on a *continuous* basis.
 2. Safeguard others from risks associated with children and young teens unsupervised in housing/common areas (*i.e. playing with matches, guns, etc.*).
 3. Minimize installation property damage (*i.e. vandalism that occurs when school age children are unsupervised*).
 4. Reduce soldier, civilian, and family member lost duty time due to child/children misconduct through lack of supervision.
 - d. A FY 97 Sample Survey of Military Personnel asked soldiers to indicate; "*In general, at what age do you consider it safe to start leaving a child alone at home unsupervised for **more than two hours**?*" The most common response among officers (51.2%) and enlisted (47.7%) personnel was 12 to 13 years of age.
4. **Applicability:** This MOI supersedes the 2000 MOI – Ft. Campbell Home Alone Policy.
5. **Policy:** Out of school child supervision policy is developed prior to implementation by an installation multidisciplinary team, (*i.e. Child and Youth Services, Community Services/Family Advocacy, Provost Marshall, Staff Judge Advocate, Housing, and a Parent and Youth Advisory Council* "parents of school-age children and command representatives). The policy is then approved and enforced by the installation commander as part of the overall child supervision policy that governs children, curfews, leaving children in vehicles, juvenile review boards, etc. Information about the policy and local procedures is disseminated widely in conjunction with the installation Child and Youth Parent Advisory Council.

Violators are referred to the installation Family Advocacy Report Point of Contact assessed for credibility and validity and processed as appropriate to include referrals to Child and Youth Services for assistance in developing a child care plan if warranted.

- a. The safety and welfare of the children are of the utmost concern to command leadership, the Department of the Army, and the Department of Defense. This policy is intended to provide a minimum framework to protect children from "*at risk*" behavior. Soldiers, civilians, and family members should be alert to any action or situation that endangers children. However, parents are ultimately responsible for ensuring children are properly supervised and safeguarded.
- b. Army personnel and other service personnel assigned to and/or residing on Ft. Campbell who have dependent children younger than high school have a responsibility to ensure that their children are appropriately supervised during non-school duty hours.
- c. Children under the age of **five (5)** will not be in self-care or home alone. These children require close supervision and must be under direct control of a parent or

a parent designee (*should be 18 yrs old or older for emergency medical purposes*) at all times. They must not be left outside of quarters unattended, alone in quarters, or alone in a vehicle.

- d. Children **four (4) or five (5)** years of age that are enrolled in school must be under direct supervision of a responsible person when meeting or being dropped off from a school bus.
- e. Parents or supervisors of children **six (6) to ten (10)**-years of age, must know the whereabouts and activity that the children are involved in at all times when outside playing.
- f. Children **ten (10)** years old or younger **will not** be in self-care or home alone during weekdays, holidays, vacations, and/or summer break.
- g. Children **eleven (11) and twelve (12)**-years-old may be left in self-care or home alone up to three (3) hours. *Parents should be advised to access the physical and emotional capabilities of their child(ren) when doing so.*
- h. Children **will not** be left in the care of anyone less than **thirteen (13)**-years old (*example: Babysitting*) for more than **six (6)** hours. Children **fifteen (15) and older** may watch children up to **twelve (12)** hours. **Children will not be supervised by anyone under the age of seventeen (17)-years-old overnight, days, etc.** Children **thirteen (13) – fifteen (15)**-years-old may be left in self-care or home alone during the day and early evening hours not to exceed eight (8) hours.
- i. Children must be controlled to ensure that they do not annoy neighbors, workers, or damage private/government property.
- j. Family members and visitors will comply with the following curfews during school year:

	<u>(SCHOOL)</u>	<u>WEEKDAY</u>	<u>WEEKEND/HOLIDAYS/</u>
1. 10-years-old and younger		1900 hours	2100 hours <u>SUMMER</u>
2. 11-14-years-old		2100 hours	2300 hours
3. 15-years-old and older		2200 hours	2400 hours

(Exceptions may be made for recognized functions of the school, teen club, event of emergencies, or with their parents).

- k. *Special needs* Children: These guidelines are to be modified in accordance with their special needs.

6. **Services to help:** Commanders can help families minimize the conflict between parental responsibilities and unit mission requirements by offering a predictable continuum of installation Child and Youth Services (CYS) supervised care/activity options for both school age and middle school children on a regular basis during out of school hours.

- a. **CYS Resource and Referral Offices** provide current and accurate information about on/off post care/supervision/activity options through schools, youth organizations, chapels, and other agencies.
- b. **Support services** are provided (*i.e. self-care classes, babysitting classes, self-care loaner kits for older children in transition from direct to monitored supervision/self-care*).

- c. Activity options available are: Child Development Services (*CDS*); School-age Services (*SAS*); Middle School/Teen (*MST*) programs; Youth Sports and Fitness Programs; CYS Instructional Programs; and Family Child Care (*FCC*).
 - 1. Activity options are accessible to children from schools and housing areas.
 - 2. Activity options are affordable to patrons, cost-effective, and sustainable for the Army.
 - 3. Activity options are provided in sufficient quantity based on facility and financial ability. Activities are planned and documented as part of the Installation Child and Youth Availability Plan (*ICYAP*).
 - 4. Allow a child above the first grade to walk unaccompanied to care/supervised activity option **with parents consent**.
- d. Parents should assess the physical and emotional capabilities of their child(ren) and the potential risks or advantages to their child(ren) in selecting the most appropriate options.

7. Implementation Procedures.

- a. This MOI will be incorporated into Ft. Campbell's housing guidance for families and juvenile review board.
- b. The installation may consider asking personnel to acknowledge their parental supervision responsibilities as part of installation in-processing.
- c. Any questions may be directed to the Family Advocacy Program Manager at 798-4191.



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